

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method of simplifying a program listing, the method comprising:

a) receiving an identification of a portion of said program listing to be hidden;

b) receiving input indicating said portion is to be hidden; and

c) causing a symbol to replace said portion of said program listing in response to said identification and said input indicating said portion is to be hidden.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said identification comprises receiving identifications of a start character position and end character position identifying a beginning and ending respectively of said portion of said program listing to be hidden.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising determining said start character position and end character position.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining said start character position and said end character position comprises identifying a portion of the program listing, which is in a common context.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein determining further comprises identifying a context of said portion, of the program listing, at a cursor position, said context being said common context.
- 5 6. The method of claim 5 wherein identifying a context comprises locating a context start marker in proximity to said cursor, determining a hierarchical level of said context start marker and locating a context end marker for the context identified by said context start marker.
- 10 7. The method of claim 3 wherein causing comprises associating said portion of said program listing with said symbol.
- 15 8. The method of claim 7 wherein associating comprises associating said start character position and said end character position of said portion of said program listing with said symbol.
9. The method of claim 3 wherein associating comprises producing a hide record identifying said start character position and said end character position.
- 20 10. The method of claim 3 wherein causing comprises showing said symbol instead of characters between said start character position and said end character position of said program listing when said characters would otherwise be shown.
- 25 11. The method of claim 10 wherein showing the symbol comprises loading an index to said symbol at a position in a display buffer which would normally be occupied by the portion to be hidden.

12. The method of claim **10** further comprising locating a hide record identifying said start character position and said end character position.

13. The method of claim **1** further comprising redisplaying at least one hidden portion of the program listing.

14. The method of claim **13** further comprising deleting a hide record associated with said program listing and identifying a portion of the program listing which has been hidden.

15. The method of claim **1** further comprising redisplaying all hidden portions of the program listing .

16. The method of claim **15** further comprising deleting a plurality of hide records associated with said program listing and which identify respective hidden portions of the program listing.

17. An apparatus for simplifying a program listing, the apparatus comprising:

a) a processor circuit having an output device and a text editor for providing a representation of a program listing using said output device;

b) means for receiving an identification of a portion of the program listing to be hidden;

c) means for receiving input indicating that the portion is to be hidden; and

d) means for causing a symbol to replace said portion of said program listing in response to said identification and said input indicating said portion is to be hidden.

5 **18.** A computer readable medium for providing processor executable instructions for directing a processor circuit executing a text editor to:

a) receive an indication of a portion of a program listing provided by said text editor to be hidden;

b) receive input indicating said portion is to be hidden; and

c) cause a symbol to replace said portion of said program listing in response to said identification and said input indicating said portion is to be hidden.

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15 **19.** The computer readable medium of claim **18** further comprising instructions for directing said processor circuit to determine a start character position and an end character position identifying beginning and end points of a portion of said program listing which is to be hidden.

20 **20.** The computer readable medium of claim **19** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to determine the start character position and the end character position by identifying a portion of the program listing which is in a common context.

25 **21.** The computer readable medium of claim **20** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to identify a context of said portion, of the program listing, at a cursor position, said context being said common context.

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22. The computer readable medium of claim **21** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to locate a context start marker of the program listing, in proximity to the cursor, to determine a hierarchical level of said context start marker and to locate a context end marker for the context identified by said context start marker.
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23. The computer readable medium of claim **19** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to associate said portion of said program listing with said symbol.
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24. The computer readable medium of claim **23** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to associate the start character position and the end character position of the portion of said program listing with said symbol.
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25. The computer readable medium of claim **19** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to produce a hide record identifying said start character position and said end character position.
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26. The computer readable medium of claim **19** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to show said symbol instead of characters between said start character and said end character of said program listing when said characters would otherwise be shown.
27. The computer readable medium of claim **16** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to load an index to said symbol at a position in a display buffer which would normally be occupied by said portion of said program listing which is to be hidden.

28. The computer readable medium of claim **18** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to redisplay at least one hidden portion of the program listing.

29. The computer readable medium of claim **27** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to delete a hide record associated with said program listing and identify a portion of the program listing which has been hidden.

30. The computer readable medium of claim **18** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to redisplay all hidden portions of the program listing .

31. The computer readable medium of claim **30** further comprising instructions for directing the processor circuit to delete a plurality of hide records associated with said program listing and which identify respective hidden portions of the program listing.

32. An apparatus for simplifying a program listing, the apparatus comprising the computer readable medium of claim **18** and further comprising:

a) a processor circuit having an output device for producing said program listing, and a text editor for causing said program listing to be displayed by said output device; and

b) an input device operable to receive said identification of said portion of the program listing to be hidden.

33. A computer data signal comprising:

a) a first code segment for directing a processor circuit executing a text editor operable to provide a program listing, to receive an identification of a portion of the program listing which is to be hidden;

b) a second code segment for directing the processor circuit to receive input indicating said portion is to be hidden; and

b) a third program portion for directing the processor circuit to cause a symbol to replace said portion of said program listing in response to said identification and said input indicating said portion is to be hidden.